



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCK
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08/147,433 11/05/93 KOIZUMI

J 203863900580

EXAMINER

GUARRIELLO, J.

ART UNIT

PAPER NUI

D.G. 15M1/0127

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WASHINGTON, DC 20005-3918

1511

DATE MAILED: 01/27/94

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

This application has been examined Responsive to communication filed on _____ This action is

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), 15 days from the date of this letter. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133

Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION:

- Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892.
- Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review
- Notice of Art Cited by Applicant, PTO-1449.
- Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-15
- Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes, PTO-1474.
- _____

Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION

- Claims 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 22-24 are pending in the application. Of the above, claims _____ are withdrawn from consideration. _____
- Claims _____ have been cancelled.
- Claims _____ are allowed.
- Claims 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 22-24 are rejected.
- Claims _____ are objected to.
- Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.
- This application has been filed with informal drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.85 which are acceptable for examination purposes.
- Formal drawings are required in response to this Office action.
- The corrected or substitute drawings have been received on _____. Under 37 C.F.R. 1.84 these drawings are acceptable; not acceptable (see explanation or Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948).
- The proposed additional or substitute sheet(s) of drawings, filed on _____, has (have) been approved by the examiner; disapproved by the examiner (see explanation).
- The proposed drawing correction, filed _____, has been approved; disapproved (see explanation).
- Acknowledgement is made of the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119. The certified copy has been received not been filed in parent application, serial no. 07/1887013; filed on May 22, 1992.
- Since this application appears to be in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.
- Other

EXAMINER'S ACTION

Art Unit 1511

15

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103 which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

Claims 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Takimoto et al. 4,761,333 in view of JP 60-92345.

Takimoto discloses steering wheel materials made of polyvinyl chloride resin, phthalic acid ester and acrylonitrile butadiene rubber. (col. 1, lines 9-55; col. 2, lines 29-68)

JP'345 discloses a composition with a vinyl chloride, plasticizer of ethyl hexyl phthalate with filler and thermoplastic polyurethane.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the polyurethane of JP'345 in Takimoto and produce the claimed steering wheel pad

Art Unit 1511

because each discloses PVC, with phthalic esters and the polyurethane thermoplastic would function to give a soft composition. Full translation requested.

16

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103 which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

Claims 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Takimoto et al. 4,761,333 in view of JP 140348.

Takimoto as in paragraph #15 above.

JP'348 discloses soft vinyl chloride resin composition with thermoplastic polyurethane, plasticizer and filler. The temperature range would encompass the claimed composition.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the polyurethane

Serial No. 08/147,433

-4-

Art Unit 1511

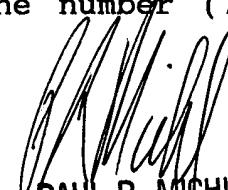
thermoplastic of JP'348 in Takimoto and produce the claimed steering wheel pad because each disclose PVC, with plasticizer and in particular '348 disclosed soft vinyl chloride resin composition and would be expected to be equivalent. Full Translation requested.

17

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to John J. Guarriello or Paul Michl at telephone number (703) 308-3209 or (703) 308-2451.

J.Guarriello:lr
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1/26/94


PAUL R. MICHL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
ART UNIT 156